

nience, in requiring that the district judges should be elected by the people, and also in consequence of their number, according to the general ticket system, yet it certainly appeared to him that where the judges were selected to represent the supreme law of Maryland, and give currency to that system of Maryland which regulated the whole of the common law, the State should be consulted as to the judges. Upon that simple suggestion he would submit the amendment.

Mr. SOLLERS asked if the effect of this proposed amendment would not be to destroy the beautiful argument of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas.)

Mr. GWINN. Yes; but not altogether.

Mr. SOLLERS. Well, it would put four district judges upon the bench.

Mr. GWINN hoped the gentleman from Calvert (Mr. Sollers,) would permit him to reply. He understood the argument of the gentleman from Frederick to be, that difficulties would arise from the fact that the men nominated from single districts, would not be known to the people of the whole State, and ought not to be voted for on general ticket. This objection would apply to every election of governor. There was no fear, however, that an eminent lawyer would not be known to the people of the State. The names of men who had attained such distinction, were familiar as household words to the whole people. And it was to be taken for granted, that each party would put forward men who were competent to stand the scrutiny of public discrimination.

Mr. SOLLERS observed, that this was a naked, undisguised attempt—so plain that he who “ran might read”—to put on the bench four District Judges, and not only so, but that Baltimore city should have the controlling influence to put them on the bench. He knew it was a truth, and he cared not for the gravity of the gentleman. There was not a gentleman in that Convention but what saw through the proposition, and he warned gentlemen that it would be to give Baltimore the control of the bench.

Mr. MERRICK. The Convention had determined to give Baltimore four judges, and he looked upon the question as already settled.

Mr. SPENCER should not regard party in the vote that he should give. He should be governed by principle alone. That should be his guide, so far as he was capable of understanding it. In the selection of judges for the Court of Appeals, every part of the State was equally interested—it was the fourth of the whole State.

A judge, coming from the Eastern Shore, had to expound the law for every part of the State.—We have determined that the judges shall be separate and distinct from the county courts. He would ask, if a judge came from the Eastern Shore, would he administer justice in any one particular better in consequence of being exclusively elected by the vote of that Shore? Was not the city of Baltimore as much interested in a judge who came from Eastern or Western Maryland, as from her own city? It was objected that the city of Baltimore would control the election of judges; she would have an influence no doubt;

but no more than Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's, Worcester, Somerset or Dorchester.—He had never known the city of Baltimore to control other sections of the State in the choice of its officers. He thought the voice of Baltimore ought to be heard in the election of all officers in which she was directly interested, as should any part of the State.

Mr. W. C. JOHNSON said he would oppose the proposition to elect the judges of the court of appeals by the general ticket system, because the Convention had gone on the idea that the people were competent to elect their judges, and that pre-supposed the idea that the people had some knowledge of the men for whom they were going to cast their votes. Now, we who were at a distance, and of course had to rely in a great degree upon the information of others, as to the character and talent of men, knew how much artificial character was made for public men. He had known many men who had figured in public life, and particularly at Washington, who were men of the smallest calibre in every respect; but, then, they had their letter writers there, who praised and puffed and blew them into a balloon size, [laughter,] and made great and distinguished men of them. Now, what he wanted was, that the people should really know their men, their candidates; and, therefore, he went for the district system. He desired that they should know for whom they cast their votes—that they should see his face, and examine it phrenologically—know his social character, and every thing about him.—He wished to put every man under review, so that the people might decide as nearly right as possible. Therefore, he would repeat, that he was in favor of the district system, and not only the district system, that the judges should be taken from those four divisions of the State, but that those several divisions of the State should elect their own judges separately and severally, because they were better acquainted with individuals personally in their own district, than they could possibly be in all the others. He would like to know how many people in Baltimore would know our lawyers in the country—would know our candidates. He was, therefore, in favor of the district system, as a system by itself, and in favor of each district electing its own judges, for the purpose of proceeding up to the Supreme Judicial Tribunal of our own State. He was in favor of another feature of the bill, as reported by the chairman of the committee on the judiciary, that each county should elect its judges, for the very same reasons, and upon the same principle—because the people would know the individual, and whether he was a man of capacity, or not. They might, indeed, have known him personally, and for a long series of years, from his youth upward, perhaps. For all those reasons, he would vote for the district system, and against the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city.

Mr. SPENCER observed that the gentleman (Mr. Johnson) objected to the election of the judges by the people at large, because the people of Western Maryland would be unacquainted with candidates from the Eastern Shore. With all the respect he entertained for his friend, he (Mr. S.)